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SUBJECT: UNSC REFORM: PGA GIVES OEWG "TIME AND SPACE IT  
NEEDS" UNTIL LAUNCHING NEGOTIATIONS IN FEBRUARY 2009

REF: A. USUN NEW YORK 1065  
[1](#)B. USUN NEW YORK 927  
[1](#)C. USUN NEW YORK 840

[1](#)1. (SBU) Summary: On November 17, the President of the General Assembly (PGA) announced the cancellation of the November 21 launch of intergovernmental negotiations on Security Council expansion in an informal plenary of the General Assembly, reversing his October 10 decision. He agreed that both the "letter and spirit" of GA decision 62/557 should be implemented, thereby allowing the Open-ended Working Group (OEWG) to deliberate but emphasizing that intergovernmental negotiations would begin no later than February 28, 2009. The PGA called for member states to submit papers to "fuel the debate" since his office would not be putting forth its own paper. The next OEWG meeting will likely be December 5. End summary.

[1](#)2. (SBU) At the start of the November 17 Open-ended Working Group (OEWG) meeting, President of the General Assembly (PGA) Miguel d'Escoto Brockmann announced that he plans to implement both the "letter and the spirit" of GA decision 62/557 (ref C) and intends to give the OEWG "the time and space it needs until February 2009 to pave the way towards inter-governmental negotiations," and so canceled his previously-announced November 21 meeting to begin negotiations. He said, "If the OEWG crosses the finish line earlier than 21 November, we can start on that date. However, something tells me that we are not going to make it, so I suggest you take that off your agenda. I feel we need a couple more meetings of the OEWG."

[1](#)3. (SBU) The PGA called for member states to fuel the discussion with ideas and submit papers to his office. He will not be putting forward his own paper. Compared with his November 11 remarks when he criticized the Uniting for Consensus (UFC) bloc for pressuring him (ref A) to delay, this time he tried to rally the membership together and ended his remarks with, "Coming together, keeping together and working together."

[1](#)4. (SBU) During the 2.5-hour session, 26 delegations made interventions but there were few rhetorical high points, as compared with the November 11 session. China, the only P-5 member not to speak November 11, welcomed the PGA's decision and stressed the importance of the OEWG's work in the next few months to increase member states' trust and cooperation. A number of speakers stuck to their prepared remarks and

called for negotiations to start November 21, ignoring the PGA's opening clarification. The Solomon Islands criticized the PGA for "pronouncing on a direction" before hearing from the full membership. Several African states went beyond repeating the Ezulwini Consensus. Namibia stressed the need to honor the September 15, 2008 compromise. Algeria, not a regular speaker at OEWG meetings, voiced support for the PGA's statement and for the Mexican-proposed schedule of work (ref A). A number of states - Malaysia, Fiji, Cuba - voiced outrage at the "gentleman's agreement" referred to in the PGA's November 11 remarks and noted that they had not been part of it.

¶5. (SBU) Afghan Perm Rep Ambassador Tanin, in his capacity as Vice Chair of the OEWG, presided over 90 percent of the meeting. He said that the next meeting of the OEWG would be announced in the Journal. He also urged member states to contact the PGA with ideas to "fuel the process." (Note: The PGA's Dutch expert on Security Council reform Mark Van Der Velden told PolOff November 19 that the next meeting of the OEWG would likely be December 5. End note.)  
Khalilzad